

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 16

February 1968

NUMBER 4

Howard Spragg Heads Board, Homeland Ministries



A missionary who once spent ten years working in the slums of Chicago's South Side and the mountainous rural sections of Puerto Rico and who later was called to manage his church's home missionary and pension funds, totaling more than two hundred million dollars, was elected November 1, 1967, to head one of the oldest and most active Protestant national missionary societies.

The Rev. Dr. Howard E. Spragg, Westfield, N. J., was named executive vice-president of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The Board is the agency of the United Church of Christ responsible for the development of new churches, church finance and building, race relations, community organization, higher education, programs for city, suburban and rural churches, Christian education, publishing, evangelism, health and welfare services, and research.

Dr. Spragg, who is now treasurer of the board, succeeds Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, who has held his position since 1943. Dr. Douglass retires Dec. 31, 1968, when Dr. Spragg takes office.

Time For Renewal WDCN - TV Nashville

A timely series of probing conversations with nationally recognized scholars representing the fields of theology, philosophy and the arts examines the religious issues of today that have their roots in the Reformation of 450 years ago.

Host of the series is Dr. E. D. Farwell, president of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. This series began on Jan. 25 at 8:30 p. m. on Thursdays and 5:30 p. m. on Mondays, and continues thru April 19th on Channel 2, Nashville. The remainder of the schedule is:

FEB. 5 & 9:

A Look at the New Life of Preaching
FEB. 12 & 16:

A Look at the New Life of Sacred Music

FEB. 19 & 23:

A Look at the New Life of Ecumenical Age

FEB. 26 & MARCH 1:

A New Look at the New Life of Learning

MARCH 4 & 8:

A Look at the New Life of Art

MARCH 11 & 15:

A Look at the New Life Through Great Men

MARCH 18 & 22:

A Look at the New Life of Law

MARCH 25 & 29:

A Look at the New Life of Architecture
"Christians" and "Communications"
are the concerns for the three weeks in April.

United Church Tours Are Recommended

Tour No. 3 to Hawaii, June 19-24 (with an extension to 27 as an option)

Tour No. 4 to Reformation Countries, July 28 - Aug. 18

Tour No. 6 to England, Scotland, and Ireland, July 31 - Aug. 21

For complete information, write: Dr. Nelson C. Dreier, Secretary of Tours, 150 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Two Churches Unite In Anniston, Alabama



History was made in Anniston, Ala., on Sunday, January 7, 1968.

Churches of two Protestant denominations united after carefully appraising their witnesses in the community. The First Congregational Church of Anniston, a United Church of Christ, voted itself out of legal existence. The Calvary United Presbyterian Church did the same. Members of the two congregations voted then to form a new church, calling it the First United Presbyterian Church of Anniston.

The Reverend Andrew Cooper was pastor of the Congregational Church. He was asked by the combined congregation to accept its pastorate. However, he declined due to a commitment to a pastorate elsewhere.

Representatives of both denominations took part in the service of worship in the morning and in the afternoon service of merger, creating a new congregation. Attending the service were Rev. Donald Daughtry, Rev. Edward Brown, and Dr. W. J. Andes, who spoke at the uniting service, all from Atlanta, and Hubert Richter, Moderator of Southeast Conference.

SEC Annual Meeting At Chattanooga

Saturday - Sunday, April 27 - 28, 1968
Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, Tenn

Board Of Directors, SEC, Meets
Southeast Conference Office,
2684 Clairmont Rd., NE, Atlanta, Ga.
February 21, 1968 — 10:30 A. M.

Ecumenical Explorations By Senior High Group

Meeting at Southeast Conference office, an interdenominational and interracial group of senior high school students from Atlanta churches determined to continue their thinking and working together.

They now plan a weekend at the Baptist Assembly Grounds March 8-10, when they will study and discuss the new morality.

Rev. Emilie Pitcock and Rev. Donald Daughtry are serving with adults from other denominations in the area to give counsel and guidance. A steering committee of youth has been appointed.

Total cost for the weekend in March will be \$15.00, of which a registration fee of \$5.00 must be sent to Fabienne Harris, 1500 Ezra Church Dr. N. W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314, by February 22nd.

All students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades are encouraged to participate.

Students are members of Methodist, United Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ congregations in Atlanta.

North Alabama Youth Meet

"Is LSD the Center of a New Religious Cult?" was the topic of the North Alabama Youth Fellowship meeting, held at St. John's Church, Birmingham, Sunday, January 28. Guest speaker was Mrs. Stalker of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. After a most interesting and informative presentation on the nature, use and effects of LSD, Mrs. Stalker answered many questions raised by the young people.

Following a dramatic service of worship led by Rev. George Hewson and the young people of St. John's Church, the following newly-elected officers were installed by Dr. Guy Colbert, minister-at-large of the Association: Rudy Slitze, president, of St. John's; Gene Price, vice-president, of Garden City; and Don Thompson, secretary-treasurer, of Huntsville. Mr. John Pline, Huntsville, is adult advisor.

New Hope Parsonage Open House

The New Hope Congregational Church of Clio, Alabama, held a house warming in the new parsonage on Sunday, January 21, 2-5 p. m. A very successful occasion was reported.

Plans To Start Soon For Vacation Church Schools

Many local churches already have plans under way for their Vacation Church Schools. If your church has not begun such planning, it is not too early to elect a planning committee (if you do not have a standing committee on Christian education) who should first study the needs and purposes for Vacation Church School in the light of your church's ongoing effort in Christian education.

Soon the materials should be ordered which will help accomplish the purposes. A small book which is helpful in looking at and planning for Vacation Church School is **The Vacation Church School**, by Elsie Miller Butt (\$2.50 from United Church bookstores).

The cooperative theme for Vacation Church Schools in 1968 is "God and His World." An introductory kit of materials on this theme is now available, and contains a planbook, samples of posters, postcards, and one each of four teacher's guides, pupil's books, as well as one each of three resource packets.

Cost of this introductory kit is \$15.50 and is returnable if intact and resalable. Books are for kindergarten, primary, junior and junior high. Order from United Church Bookstore, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Another excellent source of material is the Summer Term of the United Church Curriculum. Under the general theme of "Christian Living with One Another," there are different themes for each department, kindergarten through senior high. Write for a descriptive folder and prices to: Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 29883.

Rev. Arnold Slater On Panel

Rev. Arnold Slater participated on a panel recently to discuss "The Consultations on Church Union," with two other ministers in the Chattanooga area. Three denominations of the 10 presented in COCU were represented. They dealt with principles, guidelines, and structure of the proposed union.

News From Bonifay, New Effort Church

During the month of April, the New Effort Church built a concrete table 50 feet long, to use at our annual Homecoming Sing and Second Sunday in May. This sing has been going for about 57 years.

In August, we had a revival, and the Rev. Bill George, Free-Will Baptist, did the preaching, as we do not have a minister.

— Doris Hathaway, Clerk

Caddo Church Forms Missionary Society

Women of the Caddo Congregational Christian Church recently formed a Missionary Society and elected officers. Officers are: president, Mrs. Jean Reed; vice-president, Mrs. Viline Mezell; secretary, Mrs. Minnie Lee Thomas; treasurer, Mrs. Vera Bond. Meetings are to be held at 6:30 p. m. on the Wednesday after the second Sunday each month.

Expressing their concern for needs of people in all parts of the world, the women have adopted Honduras as their area of concern for 1968. In addition to their own work in behalf of others, the women hope to involve the young people of Caddo in various projects.

Mrs. Minnie Lee Thomas, Secretary

Mrs. Simon, First Church, Atlanta, Featured On TV

Mrs. E. L. Simon, artist and member of First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., was featured on Channel 2 on "Today in Georgia," recently.

A large volume of Mrs. Simon's poetry and paintings were shown. On the show, Mrs. Simon exhibited nine oil paintings, ranging from abstract to realistic. She has won numerous prizes for her work in sculpture, watercolors, prints and oils.

Her work has been exhibited in Atlanta, New York, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Oakland and elsewhere in the nation. She was represented in the Experiment in Friendship at Moscow, 1966-67.

Uplands Receives Christmas Gifts



Rev. and Mrs. John Roemer and their daughters, of First United Church in Nashville, delivered a station wagon full of new and used toys and clothing to Uplands for the annual Christmas distribution. Uplands distributed several hundred items to needy families in our area.

— H. Wayne Peck

United Church Of Christ Bulletins

The United Church of Christ Sunday Bulletin Service can provide: Special Occasion Bulletins and the 1968 Lenten Announcement Folder. This folder matches the Lenten Bulletin and is ideally suited for mimeographing or printing your Lenten calendar.

The bulletin on **Our Christian World Mission** is provided for worship services or programs in spring meetings of conferences and associations or for special occasions.

Our churches may want to be regular subscribers to the Every Sunday Bulletin series, cost of which is \$1.75 per hundred (postpaid).

Order from:

United Church of Christ

Sunday Bulletin Service

Stewardship Council

1505 Race Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

FOR EMPHASIS

"The Local Church In God's Mission"

Nationally, through action of the General Synod, our denomination centers attention on an emphasis for a two-year period or a four-year span. Chosen long in advance, each emphasis is prestudied by a special committee, which then introduces it to a biennial General Synod meeting in June for implementation the following January.

After a four-year emphasis on urbanization just concluded, comes the current theme, "The Local Church in God's Mission". Already chosen by the Synod for 1969-70 is an emphasis on Stewardship.

"The Local Church in God's Mission", the theme for 1968-69 demands that the local church be the chief carrier of the story of God's loving concern for the welfare of all mankind and the dignity and destiny of every human being."

The coordinators of the denomination's 1968-69 emphasis state that "The Mission is God's and he intends the redemption of the whole world. Our task is to participate in his mission, to join God in the world He loves. Each congregation is under mandate to discover and fulfill God's specific assignment where people are lonely, searching for meaning, hungry, blind, lame, longing for peace; needing deliverance from whatever cripples and imprisons their spirits."

How shall the church relate to the growing power of youth, to the knowledge explosion, to the increasing role of government? What shall we say of the so-called "new morality" and of the ever increasing gap between the "haves" and "have-nots" in our own land and throughout the world? How do the leisure revolution, the changing patterns of family life and projected human life from a test tube affect the role of our church in God's mission? These are a few of the questions with which local congregations of our conference will grapple in the coming months as they participate in the 1968-69 Emphasis

E. Alabama Youth Hold Rally At Phenix City



East Alabama United Church Youth Rally was held at First Church in Phenix City, Alabama, on January 27 and 28. The rally was attended by 65 young people and adults. The program for the encounter was centered around the Creeds and Statements of Faith. Particular emphasis was placed on the UCC Statement of Faith.

The guest speaker was Dr. Jesse H. Dollar. Twenty-two young people stayed overnight in homes of church members. The Fellowship attended a teen dance at the local Shrine Club and danced to the music of the "Downcasters," a local teen band.

The members of the rally took charge of the Sunday morning worship with the young people singing in the choir and the morning message brought by Jed Simmons, a member of the First Church at Phenix City. Young Simmons challenged the group to become involved in helping others. This can be done by helping the needy, sending money to OCWM, or supplying needed items to various homes listed in "Highways of Service." In closing, he said we should have a good time, have friends, have a good reputation, and make our overall life count by working for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Extend Your Horizons

Read Your

Church Magazines

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HAVE YOU SEEN?

Ryder Memorial Hospital is a 65-frame color filmstrip which has just been received in the Southeast Conference Audio-Visual Library. This is a new filmstrip describing the new needs in a new Puerto Rico which Ryder's medical ministers seek to meet.

Ryder Memorial Hospital has a genuine concern for people and their total health and has built an enviable reputation, playing a major role in the health of the Puerto Rican people.

Although concern for Ryder should be ongoing, it is particularly acute because the main building must be replaced within the next two years.

Churches of the Southeast Conference need to learn more about Ryder's work and find ways of helping to support it. The use of this filmstrip will be a good beginning.

Where the Action Is, produced recently by the United Presbyterians, is a sound filmstrip of 156 frames, designed primarily for use in relatively small groups interested in the serious study of their churches' lay education program. "It is only a stimulant — a starting point. While endeavoring to be realistic, it paints no rosy picture, nor does it provide pat answers or easy solutions to the questions it raises. It is meant to encourage decision makers in each local church to engage in serious study" of the continuing education of its older young people and adults.

Both filmstrips are available from the Southeast Conference office.

Help Them To Know God's Love

A ballad by Joe Dowell entitled "When I Was Hungry" brings Jesus' teaching to the contemporary scene: (See Guide in OGHS Kit of materials)

When I was hungry
You gave me nothing to eat.
When I was naked
No coat or shoes for my feet.
When I was thirsty
You gave me none of your wine.
I needed your hand
And you didn't have time.

But when your brothers
Cry out for help from you
And you turn your backs
I feel the sorrow too.
When your ears are deaf to
Your brother's plea,
Your heart is hard
And you can't hear me.

Who are the hungry, the naked, the thirsty, the people who need a helping hand for whom we do not have time, to whom we turn deaf ears?

The Southeast Conference Audio-Visual Library has several motion pictures and sound filmstrips to help us become acquainted with the nature of people's needs as well as ways in which we may minister. These are especially helpful as we approach Lent and the "One Great Hour of Sharing" emphasis. Filmstrips include: "Focus on Africa"; "Pinch a Penny — Pitch a Penny"; "How Real the Hope"; "Vietnam"; "My Sister Hilwa"; "One Traveler", all of which are described in the Audio-Visual Aids Catalog and which are available to our churches.

There are also two new filmstrips: "Creative Compassion", a 14-minute, 87-frame color filmstrip with recorded narration, designed to bring churches up to date on the nature of man's problems and needs and the role of the church in meeting them. The other is entitled "A People in Agony", a 13-minute, 85-frame color filmstrip with record and is concerned with the work of Vietnam Christian Service: binding up the wounds of refugees, giving advice and assistance to mothers, the aged, the ill and the young.

Three sound (16 mm.) motion pictures are also helpful, and are also available: "Hunger", a 28½-minute dramatic portrayal of the deep hungers of refugees and other needy people in Hong Kong, Korea, Calcutta, and the Congo; "The Long March", a 35-minute color motion picture depicting needs

YOUTH WEEK 1968

"Justice on the Spaceship Earth" . . . you have to tell it like it really is. Such is the thought-provoking theme for Youth Week 1968. Youth Week packets containing resources for local church and community observance are now available at \$2.00 each from: Department of Publication Services, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y. 10027.

Several of our people have inquired about the lack of information on dates and materials for this observance. For several reasons, an interdenominational committee has arrived at a new date for the annual observance of Youth Week — the last week in October. In 1968 the dates are October 27 - November 3. It is not too early to begin to make plans and order materials.

TEACHING TOOLS

A series of four filmstrips, *Teaching Tools*, can be of great value to church school teachers in their ministry of teaching. They bring to the viewer actual examples of four common teaching tools in use: flat pictures, tackboard, display and flannelboard. Examples range from a display in a nursery classroom to an illustrated lecture for adults. Step by step directions are given for preparing flat pictures, tackboard exhibits, displays and flannelboard materials. The filmstrips also show how each tool can be used effectively.

Possibilities of use (it is suggested that only one be used at a given session) include: training sessions for leaders of youth and adult groups and for all teachers of church school classes; for training Vacation Church School staff and camp leadership; at association or regional conferences and institutes for training leadership.

Order each by specific title: "Flannelboard", "Tackboard", "Display", or "Flat Picture". As with all other audio-visuals, please return these promptly after use.

in Korea, Pakistan, Iran, and Algeria; and "Profiles of Promise", a 28-minute film showing imaginative forms of service — community development, water and agricultural projects, refugee resettlement and rehabilitation.

Users are urged to book them early so that they can be incorporated in a study-action program.

National Boards Report Great Need

David M. Stowe, general secretary for overseas ministries, National Council of Churches and a director of the UC Board for World Ministries, spoke on "Why Mission Today?" He gave three reasons: "Because this is a world in which one out of every three children now alive will bear to the end of his days on earth — and they may not be many — the irreversible effects of malnutrition upon his body and upon his mind. Because there are far more people alive today who have never really heard about God than ever before in Christian history."

"Only about half of the UC Board for Homeland Ministries budget comes from living donors," reports Mrs. Judson Fiebiger, who attended the meeting in Memphis, Tenn., in November.

"Legacies, income from investments of funds left by those who have gone before us and money from unrestricted reserves account for much of the balance used by the Board." Receipts from Our Christian World Mission for the first half of 1967 by the Board have been less than a year ago. We must reverse the trend."

Dr. Ben Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, reminds all conferences that at the General Synod it was voted we should give all areas of need a proportionate amount of the mission dollar.

Therefore it was resolved that our churches work toward the goal of having OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION equal at least 25% of current operating expenses, with an ultimate goal of \$1 for OCWM and \$1 for current expenses.

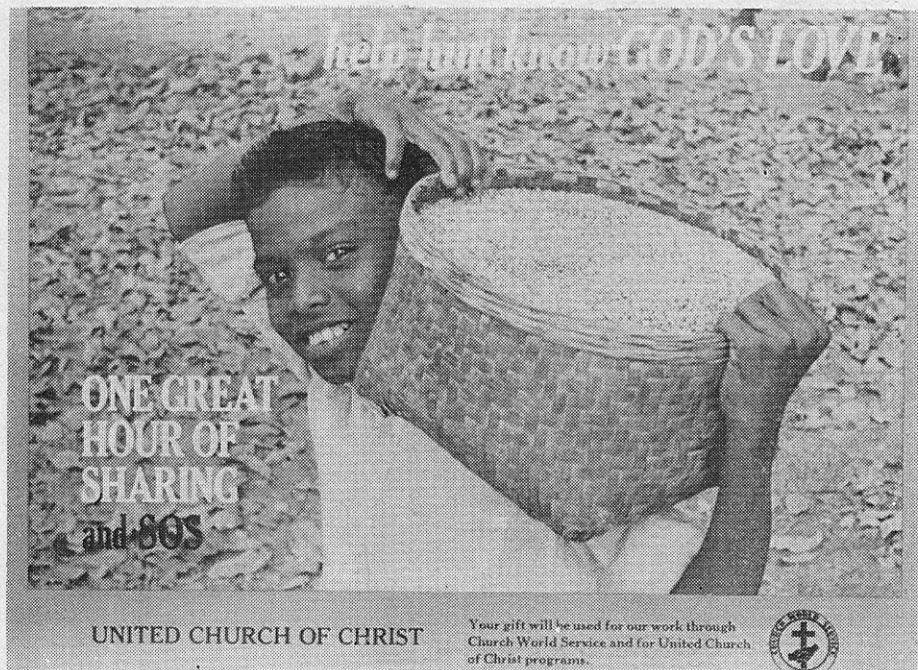
The same resolution urged that only one-third of the mission dollar be used within the state. When churches so give, the conference can also.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 1, 1968

The World Day of Prayer is observed around the world on Friday, March 1, 1968, this year. Church Women United sponsors its observance in the United States. People in some 125 countries participated last year.

Theme: "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens."



"The Church's Educational Ministry In A New Time"

Although the basis for our faith is found in the Holy Scriptures, "new occasions teach new duties" and Christians are called upon to find new ways of thinking and ministering.

Such is the concern of the National Conference on Christian Education, to be held at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, August 27-30.

Who should attend: parents, youth leaders, youth over 16 years of age, church school administrators and teachers, adult education leaders, members of church Christian education committees, public school teachers and administrators, laymen and laywomen, leaders in youth groups such as scouts and Y's, directors of Christian education, ministers, conference (area) leaders—"any person interested in a new look at church education in this new time."

Descriptive brochures, announcing courses and specific costs, are available from the Southeast Conference office. Write for copies for your church and begin to make plans for some of your people to attend.

One Great Hour Of Sharing March 24

The offering for One Great Hour of Sharing and Share Our Substance is set for March 24.

A kit of material has been sent from the Stewardship Council to each pastor to be used in promotion of this important event. Included are:

A guide, with suggestions on how to use the material;

A filmstrip, a record, a sheet of music for "When I Was Hungry;

Other suggestions.

The song, "When I Was Hungry" is especially appropriate and appealing for children's choirs or groups. It should be used at the service of ingathering if at all possible.

One side of the record is for young people and adults, the other is for children. The record should be played as the filmstrip is shown.

Offering boxes should be distributed ahead of time, as should coin cards or offering envelopes.

Other times when the ingathering could be planned would be for men's or women's meetings, lay life and work, or family gatherings.

This year, 1968, OGH-SOS offering is not given Basic Support credit, but will be listed as Other Support for Our Christian World Mission.

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1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	0	0
2. Mail subscriptions	179	182
C. Total paid circulation	179	182
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means	494	491
E. Total distribution	673	673
F. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	77	77
G. Total	750	750

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

William J. Andes

SEC Youth 1968 Annual Meeting, Atlanta First

Terry Simmons of Atlanta, president, will preside at the business session when the United Church Youth of the Southeast Conference meets at First Church, Courtland and Houston Streets, Atlanta, Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31. Registration will begin at 9 a. m., closing at 10 a. m., when the business session is called to order. Fellowship singing will be led by Fred Dresch, and the opening worship will be in charge of Deborah Price of Garden City.

Delegates will act on the proposed constitution which the 1967 session instructed the officers to prepare, and copies of which have been mailed to each church.

Although at this writing, plans for the afternoon session have not been completed, it is anticipated that a theatre group will provide a springboard by which the young people will face their concerns and seek ways of implementing them.

Saturday evening will provide opportunity for fellowship and recreation under the direction of the young people of First Church.

On Sunday morning, following the election of officers, First Church young people and their pastors will lead the morning worship. Newly elected officers will be installed.

Local church youth and their advisors are asked to note the deadline for registrations (as indicated on the letter) to send full amount of \$6.00 with each registration. Those who expect to stay in motels or hotels should make reservations early.

A Service of Recognition for the Reverend Donald S. Daughtry, called to be associate pastor, was held at First Congregational Church, Atlanta, on Sunday evening, February 4, 1968, at 7:30 p. m. A reception followed.

The examination and ordination of Scott Cross was held on Sunday, January 28, in Howard United Church in Nashville, Tenn. Scott was licensed by the Tennessee-Kentucky Association meeting in Oak Ridge last October. He worked at Howard Church during the year and has just finished his work at Vanderbilt Divinity School.